

SENATE RESOLUTION 86

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and honor Katori Hall, winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Drama.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those accomplished Tennesseans who have devoted their lives to their creative endeavors, thereby enriching the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, playwright and Memphis native Katori Hall recently attained a career-defining pinnacle when she was awarded the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her play *The Hot Wing King*; and

WHEREAS, *The Hot Wing King* premiered in Spring 2020 at the Signature Theatre in New York City, the final play of her three-play residency at the esteemed venue; and

WHEREAS, this Pulitzer Prize-winning work is described as a funny, deeply felt consideration of Black masculinity and how it is perceived, filtered through the experiences of a loving gay couple and their extended family as they prepare for culinary competition at the annual "Hot Wang Festival" in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a versatile creative force, Katori Hall is also the book writer and co-producer of the West End and Broadway hit *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* and the executive producer and showrunner of the breakout Starz drama *P-VALLEY*, which is based on her play of the same name; and

WHEREAS, she is perhaps best known for her play *The Mountaintop*, a fictionalization of the last night in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, life, for which she received the coveted Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2010; the play opened on Broadway in October 2011 to an outpouring of critical acclaim; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hall's other works include the award-winning *Hurt Village*, *Hoodoo Love*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, and *The Blood Quilt*; she is also the director of the award-winning short *ARKABUTLA*; and

WHEREAS, Katori Hall is an alumna of Columbia University, ART at Harvard University, and The Juilliard School, as well as a graduate of the Sundance Episodic Lab's inaugural class, the Sundance Screenwriting Lab, and Ryan Murphy's Half Foundation Directing Program; and

WHEREAS, she is a proud member of the Ron Brown Scholar Program and the Coca-Cola Scholar Program, and her long list of accolades includes a Susan Smith Blackburn Award, a Lark Play Development Center Playwrights of New York (PONY) Fellowship, two Lecompte du Nouy Prizes from Lincoln Center, a Fellowship of Southern Writers Bryan Family Award in Drama, a NYFA Fellowship, the Columbia University John Jay Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement, the National Black Theatre's August Wilson Playwriting Award, and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her dramatic works, her writing has been featured in *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, and *The New York Times*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hall is one of the Volunteer State's most noteworthy daughters; her career is a testament to the possibilities that lie at the confluence of talent, hard work, integrity, and devotion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend and congratulate Memphis native Katori Hall, winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her play *The Hot Wing King*, extending our best wishes for much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.